

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and illustrates abuse of the media's responsibilities.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the owners, executives and their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" (or, in this case "Propaganda Central") far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities, responsible confirmed news stories and news decisions made locally.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

The nation's media should not be a political "football" for the owners to use at their own whim and complete, regardless of political affiliation.
Thank you.